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Green, Appearing Before Committee, Asks Defeat of "National Service" Law

Appearing at a public hearing of the Senate military affairs committee, A.F.L. President William Green demanded defeat of the proposed National Service Act as a menace to war production, a repudiation of the principles we are fighting this war to uphold and a flat violation of the Constitution.

Green demolished arguments of the bill's proponents that compulsory labor will solve manpower problems, prevent strikes and distribute the burden of war sacrifice more equitably among all the American people.

"A national service act," he said, "would only substitute compulsion and regimentation for the free enterprise of American labor and American management. If we do this, we will be conceding that we are wrong on the basic issues of the war and that the enemy is right. Enactment of this bill would constitute an inglorious confession of failure of the American way of life."

The Record Is Proof

The record of the war to date proves incontestably, the speaker emphasized, that America has not failed but has won the battle of production with a vast outpouring of the munitions of war which turned the tide of war and enabled the Allied Nations to start new and victorious offensives.

Instead of manpower shortages, surpluses are likely to develop during the year as the war production program in general begins to enter a declining stage, Green insisted.

The nation's leaders in industry, labor and agriculture are the best qualified to decide whether resort to a national service act will reduce or magnify manpower difficulties. They gave their answer last November, Green declared, in a unanimous declaration against such legislation. This statement of the policy committee of the War Manpower Commission, to which he referred, held that solution of manpower problems depends upon leadership, co-ordinated plans, and efficient administration, rather than broadened control and regimentation.

Spells "Confusion, Red Tape"

The record of government intervention in the manpower field, the A.F.L. official asserted, "spells only confusion, red tape, contradictory policy and frustration." He pointed out that organized labor itself has done more to solve manpower problems in war production than the combined efforts of all federal agencies in the field. This was done by the unions of the American Federation of Labor in efficiently supplying thousands of skilled workers wherever and whenever needed on war projects, at no expense to the Government.

Green also showed how the combined "know how" of labor and management has contributed to solution of manpower problems by reducing production time on fighting planes and other important war items.

An Added Home Front Burden

"A national service act would increase the burden of sacrifice borne by those serving on the home front," he continued, "but it would do so without rhyme."

reason or necessity. If such law should be enacted and strictly enforced, it is appalling to consider the fearful consequences of placing such unrestricted power in bureaucratic hands. Millions of American families might be broken up, thousands of small business enterprises might have to be abandoned. Every American citizen would be thrown into a state of uncertainty and insecurity."

A Haymaker Punch

Referring to a statement by Senator Austin during the course of the Senate hearings that it would not be necessary to draft everybody for work, the A.F.L. executive then remarked: "If this statement of the purposes of this bill by one of its authors can be relied upon, then the argument of equal sacrifices topples of its own weight. If the great majority of American citizens will be left undisturbed in their present occupations by this bill, if idlers and non-productive individuals are to be compelled to pursue their own sweet way, if only groups of workers are to feel the brunt of enforced labor—then the idea behind a national service act is fraudulent and the burden of war sacrifice will be even more unfairly distributed than it is at present."

Major Test of Proposal

In the final analysis, Green said, the bill must stand or fall on the major test of whether it will promote the war effort. He concluded: "In my considered opinion, enactment of a national service law will not add a single plane, a single ship, a single tank or a single bullet to the nation's war production. On the contrary, it threatens to cripple the amazingly successful production program we are now carrying on. Therefore, I earnestly call upon this committee and the Congress as a whole to defeat this dangerous measure."

Carpenters State Council Meets at Merced Today

Leaders of the various branches of the carpentry craft are assembled in Merced today (Friday) for the seventeenth annual convention of the California State Council of Carpenters. The sessions will extend over tomorrow and Sunday.

It was announced early in the week that all district councils had reported naming of delegates and that indications were that a large number of local unions would be represented. The state apprentice committee of the carpenters was scheduled to meet yesterday at the Hotel Tioga, which is the official headquarters of the convention.

Incumbent officials of the State Council of Carpenters are: Joseph F. Cambiano, San Mateo, president; C. O. Johnson, San Pedro, vice-president, and David H. Ryan, San Francisco, secretary; members of the executive board, J. N. Skelton (District No. 1), Los Angeles; C. W. Clark (No. 2), Fresno; W. P. Kelly (No. 3), San Francisco; William Roth (No. 4), Stockton, and Henry Smith (No. 5), San Diego.

Labor-Consumer Groups Win Another Skirmish in Fight for Price Control

From Headquarters of the California State Federation of Labor

Credit for mobilizing support behind the President's veto of the bill dealing with the Commodity Credit Corporation, which would have emasculated the subsidy program in many essential respects, must be given to labor and consumers' groups and to the co-operation between the two.

In California, the Farmer-Labor-Consumer Committee to Combat Inflation deserves high praise for the energetic work which it carried on to keep public opinion posted on all developments in Washington regarding the fight to control inflation.

Anti-Inflation Battle Continues

Although the President's veto was sustained, the battle against inflation is not over by a long shot. This is true of the many skirmishes, and it is now more than ever before to reiterate Congress on just how labor and the consumers' subsidy payments.

Not only must the subsidy program be continued, with adequate sums of money, but it must include all the necessary commodities affecting the budgetary items of the consumer. Proper and forceful administration of the subsidy program is just as important as its quality, since regardless of how good the program may be, if its administration is not properly carried out, the consequences are bound to be harmful to the consumers of this country.

Co-operation with O.P.A. Urged

One of the best guarantees to assure the proper enforcement of our price control campaign is to co-operate fully and completely with O.P.A. The Labor Advisory Committee to O.P.A. was established for just such a purpose. This committee, which has done valuable work, must continue its activities. Without the support of the labor unions, this committee will be unable to furnish the co-operation to O.P.A. which is so essential.

To combat effectively the propaganda being spread by the enemies of a genuine price control policy, it will be necessary to keep the consumers informed upon all events related to this important question.

Merits Labor Support

The California Farmer-Labor-Consumer Committee to Combat Inflation is in a very good position to co-ordinate this important work, and merits the support of the labor unions. In the current issue of the *California Farm Reporter*, the California Farm Research and Legislative Committee says: "Boiled down to 1944 responsibilities, Chester Bowles, O.P.A. administrator, has three big jobs to do. He must bring living costs back into balance with wages, and hold them there. He must distribute scarce products fairly through rationing. And he must see that rents are kept at present levels. In short, he must prevent inflation! He cannot do this without your support!"

Without subsidies, the Price Control Act is meaningless. Profiteering can be stopped by paying production costs direct to farmers. Section 1(a) of the

(Continued on Page Two)

What About This Year?

—In 1940, there were 79,863,451 persons in the United States eligible to vote. But in the 1940 presidential election only 49,815,312 persons voted for all of the presidential candidates. This left 30,048,139 citizens of the United States more than 21 years of age who apparently did not care enough for this priceless right to exercise it. That number of vote slackers must be reduced if we are to make the rest of the world believe we really value democracy.

Are YOU a Registered Voter? You only have until April 6 to register for the May Primary Election.

Seek S. F. Ordinance to Enforce O.P.A. Regulations

Taking what was deemed the most practical step at present to bring about real enforcement of the O.P.A. price control and regulations, the San Francisco Labor Council, at its meeting last Friday night, called upon the Board of Supervisors to enact an ordinance whereby local agencies and courts would be empowered to act on violations of O.P.A. regulations.

The subject was brought up in the form of a resolution, signed by a number of delegates, as will be noted in the minutes of the Council elsewhere in this issue, and is in accord with a recommendation coming from the recent conference held in San Francisco under sponsorship of the Labor Advisory Committee of the O.P.A. The text of the resolution as adopted by the Labor Council last week is as follows:

Whereas, The American Federation of Labor, the California State Federation of Labor, the San Francisco Labor Council, and, in fact, all A.F.L. organizations, have consistently indorsed and supported the efforts of the O.P.A. to control prices as a step towards keeping the cost-of-living down and preventing inflation; and

Whereas, The only means of enforcing O.P.A. price regulations at the present time in California is by action through federal agencies, which limits the opportunity of enforcement because of the few enforcement and policing officers on the staff of O.P.A. and those who are available for this work from other federal agencies; and

Whereas, In recognition of the fact that price control is an issue close to the common people and a cause which should be supported by all law enforcement organizations—federal, state and municipal—many cities throughout the United States have enacted local ordinances by which enforcement is carried on by local law enforcement agencies, which allows for trial and disposition of these charges in local as well as federal courts; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Labor Council does favor the enactment of such an ordinance in the City and County of San Francisco, and we do call upon the Board of Supervisors of this city and county to enact an ordinance for local enforcement of O.P.A. price and commodity controls; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to each individual member of the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

EVOLVE NEW KITCHEN SINK

Because of wartime regulations restricting use of metals in plumbing fixtures, a new kitchen sink unit of glass and clay is being prepared for market. The drainboard and cabinet stand are made of "Vitrolite," a form of heat-tempered glass, and the tubs are made of clay. The unit contains only two pounds of metal.

COMMUNISTS SEEK TO INTERVENE

A motion for permission to intervene in Harry Bridges' appeal against deportation, and for an order remanding the Bridges case back to the Immigration Service was filed in the Federal Circuit Court this week by William Z. Foster and Earl Browder, respectively national chairman and general secretary of the Communist party. The petitioners assert the Communist party was not given "full and fair" opportunity to be heard in the case. The court set March 6 for a hearing on the petition.

Establish Union Medical Center

The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union was preparing to open a medical center in Philadelphia this week to be operated solely for the union members, and having a staff of twenty-one physicians and technicians. Ninety per cent of the services will be free.

The center will be housed in a four-story brick building. Costs will be defrayed jointly by the union, which has a membership of about 14,000 in that area, and clothing manufacturers, who have pledged 3½ per cent of their weekly payrolls.

Court Ruling on Anti-Labor Law

An injunction asked by Alabama unions to halt enforcement of a new state law regulating union activities has been denied by a panel of three federal judges.

The law, passed by the 1943 Legislature as the Bradford Act, bars "outlaw" strikes and requires unions to file financial statements with a State Labor Department, which the Act also established.

The Brotherhood of Teamsters' local at Gadsden, and other labor organizations argued before the court that the law was unconstitutional. Meantime, a petition for an injunction sought by the Alabama Federation of Labor in Montgomery county to prevent payment of salary for a state labor director was dismissed.

Fight for Price Control

(Continued from Page One)

Emergency Price Control Act states very clearly that "in the interest of national defense and security and necessary to the effective prosecution of the war," its purposes are: "to stabilize prices and to prevent speculative, unwarranted, and abnormal increases in prices and rents; to eliminate and prevent profiteering, hoarding, manipulation, speculation, and other disruptive practices resulting from abnormal market conditions or scarcities caused by or contributing to the national emergency."

The California State Federation of Labor is maintaining close contact with all developments on the price-inflation front and will keep its affiliates informed concerning all developments.

W.M.C. Director's View on Production and Manpower

The manpower and production situations have reached a plateau, Lawrence A. Appley, W.M.C. executive director, said in an address before the Management Association Conference on Industrial Relations at Chicago. Having reached a peak late in 1943, production is now leveling off, he said.

"It is necessary to point out that we have not yet started down," Appley asserted. "Any prediction as to when we will cannot be safely made until the military picture is much clearer than it is at this time. The manpower job ahead is far more difficult than it has been. It is harder to maintain total and individual performance at a peak than it is to reach that peak."

This is one time in the production period, Appley said, when national figures have relatively little significance. While there may be no decrease in total war production, he said, there will be decreases in certain communities. That also goes for increases. "While there will be no over-all or wholesale unemployment in the country beyond what now exists, there will be communities in which there will be unemployment and in some cases extensive unemployment," he said.

Appley was speaking on the outlook only as far ahead as July. "I refuse to look beyond the first of July," he said. "As far as can now be determined, war production will continue until July 1 at approximately the level it attained during the last quarter of 1943 in terms of total production. But within that total there will be radical readjustments."

Absentee Ballots of Military Forces

Absentee ballot applications to a total of around 22,000 have been received by Secretary of State Jordan for the May 16 elections. The applications are reported coming in at the rate of about 500 daily. Over the week-end 1118 applications were received by Registrar Cameron King in San Francisco.

It is stated that a majority of service men and women applying for absentee ballots are failing to designate party affiliations, and as a result only about 7 per cent of the applicants will be eligible to vote for party candidates at the May 16 primary election.

Postal card application forms furnished by the Federal Government contain no blank on which party affiliations may be marked and unless party registration is written in by the applicant, he can vote only for non-partisan candidates. Applicants will automatically receive absentee ballots for the general election in November and then can vote for their preferred candidates.

Engineer, Firemen Apprenticeship

A system of apprenticeship training for engineers, firemen and oilers has been set up in Dayton, Ohio, by two A.F.L. operating unions, W.M.C. reports on the basis of information received from the State Apprenticeship Council. An apprenticeship committee, made up of members of the International Union of Operating Engineers and the International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers, supervises the training. No employers are represented. All apprentices receive the same broad outline of training, covering a term of four years. Included is experience on boilers, condensers, compressors, pumps, turbines, engines of various kinds, elevators, refrigeration equipment, heating and ventilating equipment, and electrical motor equipment.

SPEED DOUBLES NEW TIRE WEAR

In 65-mile-an-hour test runs on Florida highways one make of synthetic rubber tires wore out at twice the rate of wear during the previous 45-mile-an-hour runs made on Midwest highways, says *Highway Highlights*. More rapid loss of tread caused by increased speed is similar to natural rubber tire test records and compares favorably with records for pre-war passenger car tires.

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Labor Members of Cost-of-Living Committee Make Direct Appeal to President Roosevelt

An urgent request, in the form of a joint letter, to President Roosevelt to investigate the part played by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in the publication of an index "which distorts the basic facts of our war-time living costs" was made last Sunday by George Meany and R. J. Thomas, labor members of the Presidential Committee on Cost of Living. (Meany is secretary-treasurer of the A.F.L. and Thomas is president of the United Automobile Workers C.I.O.)

Transmit Copy of Report

Meany and Thomas transmitted with the letter to the President a copy of their report showing an increase in the cost of living of 43.5 per cent during the same period in which the B.L.S. reported an increase of only 20 per cent. A portion of this report, which comprises 100 pages, pertaining to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Index, appear elsewhere in this issue of the LABOR CLARION and is in addition to that section regarding restaurant prices in San Francisco which was reproduced last week.

Industry Members' Failure

The two labor officials in their communication pointed out to the President that although he appointed his Cost of Living Committee on November 5, 1943, and urged prompt action, the public and industry representatives on the committee have failed to assemble or present any data and have failed to make any investigation of living costs. The complete text of their letter to the President follows:

Text of Communication

"On November 5, 1943 you designated a Cost of Living Committee and charged it with the responsibility of ascertaining the facts regarding the actual rise of living costs during the war period. The committee so designated was of a tri-partite nature, consisting of William H. Davis, chairman of the National War Labor Board, two industrial representatives and two labor representatives of the War Labor Board.

"On January 25, the labor members presented to the full committee a comprehensive report on the actual increase in the cost of living since January, 1941. As of the present date, no material has been presented or, as far as we know, even prepared by the remaining members of the committee.

"Extraordinary Delay"

In view of the failure of the other members to have made any investigation since November 5, or to have assembled any comprehensive data pursuant to your instructions when you designated the committee, and because of our firm conviction that nothing further can be expected of this committee for some months to come, we can not continue to sit by and abide by this extraordinary delay in the face of the facts which we have found. Because of the intense public interest that obtains regarding this vital issue and the important policies that are predicated thereon, we feel compelled to transmit to you our report. We do not feel that we would be meeting our obligations,

as members of the committee or as representatives of employee organizations, if we were not to transmit this report to you at this time.

"The report which the labor members have transmitted to your committee reveals a startling situation. In lieu of the misleading figures of the Bureau of Labor Statistics alleging a rise in the cost of living of approximately 24 per cent since January 1941 our data to the contrary demonstrates conclusively that there has been a rise in the actual cost of living of at least 43½ per cent during the same period.

Grave Type of Injustice

"Our report reveals that the Bureau of Labor Statistics, with full understanding, has permitted its Index to be used as a basis for measuring the rise in the cost of living. The Bureau of Labor Statistics is aware of the fact that such use of its index reflects the gravest type of injustice that could possibly be perpetrated by it upon the American people. The very failure of the Bureau of Labor Statistics to make clear that its index does not adequately reflect the realistic and actual rise in the cost of living subjects the Bureau to very serious charges. For instance, the index of the Bureau does not purport to reflect cost-of-living rises due to increases in the price of foods not priced by the Bureau, elimination of low-priced goods, up-grading, deterioration of quality standards or the rising cost of restaurant meals.

"In all fairness to the American people, we urgently request that there be an intensive investigation of the part that has been played by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in the publication of an index which distorts the basic facts of our wartime living costs."

Coast War Plants to Exhibit

It is announced that California's leading shipyards and aircraft plants will be represented by outstanding exhibits in W.P.B.'s national War Production Drive Exposition to be held in Washington, D. C., from February 28 to March 11, mentioned in our last week's issue.

Leading examples of West Coast production ingenuity which have stepped-up Liberty Ship and aircraft production will be shown at the Exhibition, headed by displays from the Kaiser shipyards at Richmond, Marinship at Sausalito, and Douglas Aircraft in Santa Monica.

It is stated that war industries in the West have taken a leading role in the war production drive, with approximately 300 active labor-management committees working to solve problems of absenteeism, turnover, and proper labor utilization.

100, DOUBLY CONGRATULATED

The Connecticut Highway Safety Commission congratulated Herman E. Hubbard for two reasons—he was 100 years old February 11 and he registered a car for the first time in 1907 and has operated one ever since without a "single notation, not even a complaint by some other motorist," the commission said.

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Annie Jaeger, Known in Union Ranks, Passes

At Germantown, Pa., on February 13, there died a little white-haired lady known and loved by many labor union members and their families on both sides of the Atlantic.

At state and national labor conventions in this country and in Canada, and in countless homes of labor officials and workers which she visited, Mrs. Annie Jaeger was a welcome and an honored guest.

Some years after the death of her husband, Charles Jaeger of Stockport, England, Annie Jaeger sold her small shop and went to live in the teeming borough of West Ham, London, the home of Keir Hardie. There, with her son, William Jaeger, she devoted her energies to the recalling of British organized labor to its spiritual heritage. Their work bore fruit in the inauguration in East Ham town hall of the worldwide movement for "Moral Re-Armament," under the leadership of Dr. Frank N. D. Buchman, supported by presidents and past-presidents of the British Trades Union Congress and other prominent British labor members.

Declared to have been sympathetic from her earliest years with the aspirations of labor, it is remembered that she fought above all for sound home life and high moral standards as the only solid basis for true social and political advance.

She had no home of her own. Yet, her numerous friends declare, she had thousands of homes, and that thousands in East London and elsewhere thank her for bringing to their home the spirit that triumphs against those deadly disrupters of family life—cruelty, indifference, misunderstanding, jealousy. "Annie" might arrive as a guest in a home with barely more than the price of a carfare in her pocket, but she would never mention her own material need.

Five years ago, at the age of 63, Annie Jaeger came to this country as the guest of Dr. Buchman. Here she carried on her work for Moral Re-Armament in labor. As one of the cast of the patriotic revue, "You Can Defend America," she appeared before various state and national labor conventions.

In a statement announcing her death, the M.R.A. group pays this tribute to her life endeavor: "Every moment she was living what she proclaimed. In simple, fearless speech she passed on her philosophy of sound homes and teamwork in industry to rich and poor, employer and worker alike. Her radiant smile and kindly humor would make the bluntest truths sound like a compliment, and the sternest of challenges a benediction."

PRESSMEN'S BOND PURCHASES

The International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union purchased \$201,273.42 in War Bonds and Stamps during January, 1944, bringing the total purchased by the organization to \$5,104,929.62. The union has 6589 members in the armed services.

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Another "Investigation" Completed

Reproduced in this issue of the LABOR CLARION is a section of the report by the labor members of the Presidential Committee on the Cost of Living, and entitled "Deficiencies in the Bureau of Labor Statistics Index." It is quite lengthy, but should be read in full by every member of organized labor, and, indeed, by the general public.

Presentation of the report here gives information on the effort being made by the labor members of the presidential committee and the facts and argument they are offering in support of their contentions—which are in the interest of the people as a whole. Also, a perusal thereof should be highly enlightening to members of those organizations which in their wage agreements have to a greater or less extent made their wages contingent on the so-called cost-of-living as revealed by the Bureau's findings or of other data in that line. Such perusal of the report will demonstrate how firm (?) is the foundation on which these organizations have built their own welfare. It has not in the past been an accepted principle of union labor to have the economic interests of its membership resting upon any such basis.

The principle, however, has to some extent been accepted by certain inexperienced groups of the labor movement in recent years, and under the Little Steel formula has been fastened by governmental decree upon practically the entire industrial-working population of the nation. It is a form of regimentation, and hence entirely foreign to American ideas, whatever argument may be presented in its favor during war or other emergency conditions. But if accepting it for the time being, due to present conditions, the report made by the labor members of the presidential committee easily demonstrates that the entire system under which the Labor Department's Index is compiled needs radical revision.

It did not require any committee report of any nature, or statistical data, to convince the general public that the cost-of-living has increased and that a large section of the population, is being "gold-bricked." A few purchases, a few meals in public eating places is sufficient evidence, and has long since been produced. And even the report by the labor members of the committee acknowledges the almost impossible task of demonstrating through figures all "hidden" increases in prices. It is the way of government, however, that investigation and facts must always be offered before relief can be afforded. That is a sound principle, "if not carried to excess." It appears, though, that considerable speed can be attained in issuing directives and regulations in numerous other complex situations, and with "investigation" coming afterward.

The report of the labor members has now been submitted in a communication directly to the President, as will be noted on page two of this issue. The subject is there presented ably and militantly, but in the concluding paragraph there seems to be an

anti-climax, and plenty of leeway for present conditions on price control to be continued, in the appeal that "in all fairness to the American people, we urgently request that there be an—intensive investigation"

Attention also is here directed to a radio address by John P. Frey, which appears on page eleven of this issue, and pertains to the existing governmental agencies as affecting the interests of the workers. It, too, is of some length, but is a most sensible—and patriotic—presentation of what has come to be an intolerable situation. Read it.

But with all the concrete knowledge possessed by the people on the cost of living, and present price control; with all the statistics and argument offered by the labor members of the presidential committee, and with all the facts presented by Frey, the questions remain: "Where do we go from here?" What is going to be done about the situation? And when is action going to replace "investigation"?

Insurance Companies Muffed One

A couple of years ago there was some reason to believe Axis planes might drop a few bombs in the United States, which, of course, would most likely destroy some property. So the Government asked the insurance companies to provide insurance for property owners. They agreed, but at a figure that was prohibitive.

Their proposal was turned down and the Government set up the War Damage Corporation which took on the business at 15 cents a hundred instead of \$1.50 demanded by insurance companies.

It is now stated that when this federal agency winds up its affairs it will turn over to the Treasury Department about \$300,000,000 profits earned at the 15-cent rate, which "ain't hay."

But, just imagine the profits of the private companies at \$1.50 a hundred—if they had had the business sagacity to open the door to opportunity!

Misleading Wage Figures

Anti-labor groups have seized upon government figures to claim that workers' wages have doubled since 1939. It is true that the nation's payrolls have doubled from \$48,000,000,000 in 1939 to \$105,000,000,000 in 1943. But very little of this rise was due to wage increases: "Had every wage rate in every plant in the United States been frozen in 1939, payrolls still would have doubled. The biggest source of increase has been more people at work. This accounts for over one-third of the rise. . . . The next largest source of greater payrolls has been the movement from low-paying to high-paying plants and industries." (U. S. Commerce Department figures for compensation of employees, in 1939; 1943: Preliminary estimate by A. F. L. from government figures). Further increase is accounted for by the longer working week and overtime.

The latest figures are as follows: Total payroll increase (excluding payments to armed forces) is \$46,000,000,000 from 1939 to 1943. Of this, \$14,000,000,000 is due to increased employment; \$9,000,000,000 to longer hours of work and overtime; \$14,000,000,000 to upgrading and transfers to higher paid jobs. Thus \$37,000,000,000 has nothing whatever to do with general increases in rates of pay. Actual hourly wage rate increases account for only \$9,000,000,000 of the total increase. This represents an average wage increase of only 19 per cent while living costs rose 25 per cent, even by the inadequate Labor Department index.—A.F.L. Monthly Survey.

"The Merchant Marine has repeatedly proved its right to be considered as an integral part of our fighting team. Its efforts have contributed in great part to our success. Well done." Such is the declaration made by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander of the Pacific fleet, in a recent cablegram to Jerr Sullivan, San Francisco chairman of the United Seamen's Service.

Proposed Reorganization
Of W.L.B. Aimed at Labor

Using a recent decision of the War Labor Board by which the members of industry and labor granted to truck drivers in St. Louis a wage increase which exceeded the Little Steel formula, the *New York Times* again advocates the reorganization of the War Labor Board having in view that the public representation on it would be equal to the combined representation of labor and industry. In reference to the proposal, the current news bulletin of the California State Federation of Labor points out as follows:

"That this position is not original and is calculated to have the board function as a body deprived of the experience and knowledge of both labor and industry is clearly evident. The whole democratic concept of equal representation of the basic groups in our society is completely flaunted by these advocates of minority rule.

"As the number of instances in which labor and industry have overruled the public members of the board are so few and insignificant, this, in itself, would not warrant the hue-and-cry to make the board much more objectionable to labor, as well as to industry. That this recently quoted decision is used as a pretext to eliminate labor representation or to make its voice completely ineffectual is too transparent to require further argument.

"Labor, however, will oppose with all its might any such contemplated move, since without labor's cooperation, the War Labor Board, itself, could not function. The proposal voiced by the *New York Times* again reflects ignorance on the part of the penman advocates of minority rule, their indifference toward learning what the problem really is, and their lack of sincerity in trying to solve it."

RUNNING SHORT ON "NORDICS"

The bulletin, "Poland Fights," reports that some time ago a German anthropological commission visited various villages in the Poznan province in Poland, allegedly for purposes of carrying on "scientific" research among the local population. Today the Poles, who have been classified as "purely Nordic types" by the Rassenkommission (Commission for Racial Research), are being deported to Germany. The same measures for securing new recruits of the German race may be expected shortly in other occupied territories, the bulletin points out.

L. A. UNIONS' WAR BOND RALLY

Nearly three-quarters of a million dollars' worth of War Bonds were purchased in Los Angeles when the American Federation of Labor unions staged a brilliant Fourth War Loan rally in the Teamsters' Union hall. Edward Arnold, screen actor and past president of the Screen Actors' Guild, was master of ceremonies. The Milkers and Dairymen's Union donated a Japanese hand grenade, field mortar and a 25-millimeter anti-aircraft explosive shell which were given as prizes to the unions making the first and second largest purchases of War Bonds, and to the individual member making the largest purchase.

AID PROMISED (AFTER WAR)

Addressing regional directors of the Smaller War Plants Corporation, Donald M. Nelson, War Production Board chairman, voiced his determination to protect small firms in the contest for business in the post-war era. He told the gathering that small industries will be given the first opportunity to reconvert to peacetime production and high priority on materials not needed for the war. The American Federation of Labor has frequently emphasized the importance of small business in America's economic system and demanded that small concerns be given war contracts from the very beginning of the defense and war programs.

Buy U. S. War Bonds and Savings Stamps.

"Deficiencies in Bureau of Labor Statistics Index"

[Reproduced below is one section of the report prepared by labor members of the Presidential Committee on the Cost of Living. This report has been recommended by the labor members for adoption by the committee as a whole, but has not been accepted by the industry members and they referred it to a "statistician" for review. The labor members' report consists of 100 printed pages of text and tabular matter. In last week's issue the LABOR CLARION reproduced a section of the report which dealt with restaurant prices in San Francisco. The section which follows is titled "Deficiencies in the Bureau of Labor Statistics Index," the abbreviation B.L.S. being used in referring to the Bureau. As will be noted in another article appearing elsewhere in this issue, the labor members of the committee have now presented their report direct to President Roosevelt.]

Text of the Report

After reviewing thoroughly all available data, consulting with qualified experts, and obtaining testimony from hundreds of workers and housewives, this report finds that the cost of living has risen by at least 43.5 per cent during the three war years. The B.L.S. Index indicates an increase for this period (January 1941 to December 1943) of only 23.4 per cent. The Index, we conclude, very seriously understates the extent of the actual rise in prices, as they impinge upon workers' cost of living.

The principal reasons for the great discrepancies between our findings and those of the Bureau are examined in this section of the report and are elaborated upon in subsequent sections.

Actual Prices, and Permitted Ones

1. *Under-reporting.* There is, first, the failure adequately to measure the extent to which actual prices are now higher than those permitted by government price regulations. According to the Special Committee of the American Statistical Association, under-reporting on this account "does not exceed 2 per cent" in the case of food products. We accept this finding, though believing it highly conservative. It is probably greater for other items which are more difficult to control.

Second, week-end and other special sales in retail food stores have largely disappeared—in fact, are not reflected in the Index because its prices are collected on Tuesdays. We conclude that, in the case of food, the understatement on this account amounts to at least 4 per cent of aggregate food expenditures. Disappearance of sales has similarly affected clothing and housefurnishings.

In the Case of Rent

Third, in the case of rent, faulty collection procedures, past and present, account for an underestimate for the rent component of the Index of from 6 to 7 per cent. Prior to the fall of 1942, there was a serious downward bias in the Index because rent quotations were obtained from large rental management agencies rather than from tenants. A more serious error results from the failure to measure and properly account for the increase in average rentals brought about by the appearance upon the market of new and higher priced units. Together these faulty techniques amount to an underestimate of at least 6 per cent in the Rent Index.

Assumptions Made

2. *Errors arising from imputation.* The B.L.S. obtains prices for only a small proportion of all goods sold at retail, making certain assumptions about the representativeness of its samples. From these samples, the B.L.S. estimates overall changes in the cost of living.

These assumptions, defensible in periods of relatively stable prices and patterns of consumer expenditures, are inaccurate in a period of extreme wrenches and distortions such as those of the past three years. Price relationships which existed in the base period (1935-1939) no longer hold. In housefurnishings, for

example, there is a wide dispersion in price changes, making the choice of representative samples practically impossible.

As demonstrated in the "Food Cost" section [of this report, but not here reproduced], the available evidence shows that the prices of food items not priced by the Bureau have gone up approximately twice as much as those which are priced for inclusion in the Index. There are two reasons for this differential price movement. In the case of foods purchased for home consumption (that is, excluding food purchased in restaurants) price control and subsidy policies have been an important factor. The effect of the price control efforts of the Office of Economic Stabilization has been to hold down the prices of those food items actually priced by the B.L.S. and hence reflected in the Index.

Secondly, there have been significant wartime shifts in the character of food consumption not reflected in changes in the food weights used by the Bureau. The absence of an up-to-date study of consumer expenditures makes it impossible to measure in an over-all fashion the full extent or significance of these shifts.

Increase in "Eating Out"

Particularly striking is the increase in "eating out." Workers are buying many more meals away from home than formerly. Longer working hours, the great increase in the employment of women, shopping difficulties, and other factors have contributed to this marked shift in purchasing habits. Government estimates indicate an increase of close to 100 per cent in the physical volume of food consumed in eating and drinking places during the period we are considering.

But the B.L.S. Index takes no account of this significant development. The Bureau, indeed, obtains no price quotations for what it calls "meals away from home," despite the fact that even in the base years (1934-1936) they constituted 9 per cent of total expenditures for food. The Index imputes changes in restaurant prices from the over-all change in the food component. Since, as our data indicate, the cost of restaurant meals has risen more rapidly than the B.L.S. Index, this failure to obtain figures on restaurant prices introduces another downward bias to the Index.

Automatic Increase

Quite apart from the more rapid increase in restaurant prices, it costs from two to three times as much to eat out as to eat at home. Consequently, when a worker is forced to shift from home eating to restaurants, his cost of living is automatically increased by an important margin. This report does not include increases in cost of living of this type. The amount involved is indicated by the fact that the American people as a whole spent during 1943 almost a third as much for meals away from home as they spent for meals at home.

There is another type of error of imputation, arising out of the use of the thirty-four large-city sample as representative of all urban areas. In the case of rent, as pointed out in great detail in the "Rent" section

of this report, the assumption that rental changes in these cities are representative of all rental changes is false. Rents have risen more rapidly in the smaller cities than in the thirty-four Index cities. Moreover, rents have risen more rapidly in the peripheral areas of the large cities than in the cities proper. In consequence, the rent component of the Index understates the actual rise in urban rentals. We conclude that the B.L.S. Rent Index underestimates the actual rise in rents from this cause alone by at least 8 per cent in the three-year period.

Findings of Other Surveys

The findings of other surveys, such as those conducted by the Sample Surveys group at the Census Bureau, indicate clearly that economic changes in large cities often diverge seriously from those in smaller cities. The big shift of population to war centers has resulted in increasing the proportion of workers living in areas of relatively high prices. This phenomenon is missed completely by the B.L.S. Index.

3. *Failure to reflect quality deterioration and upgrading.* The measurement of changes in the cost of living is complicated by changes in quality, by forced shifts in consumer purchasing from low price lines to higher price lines, and by disappearance of low-end items. In connection with upgrading, several types of situations can be distinguished:

A. Rise in unit price without change in quality.

B. Decline in quality with no change in unit price. Over a period of time, of course, quality changes are reducible to price changes. Mr. Willis S. MacLeod, formerly Chief of Technical Operations of the Standards Division, O.P.A., makes this point:

Instance of Double Increases

"If a pair of shoes bought this year wears only half as long as a pair bought last year, the cost of shoes to a worker has doubled as truly as though he had paid twice as many dollars for the shoes." (Testimony before the Boren Committee, June 23, 1943.)

C. Upgrading or trading-up. Upgrading, or what is known in merchandising circles as trading-up, involves a shift to the increased supply of higher price lines, in place of low-price lines. A number of situations are possible, depending upon the extent to which the cheaper items become difficult to find and upon the extent of quality deterioration.

(1) If both price lines are on the market, though the cheaper one has become hard to find, the consumer may either pay as much as formerly and get a poorer article (this reduces to quality deterioration) or if he wants the same article as before he must pay more (increase in unit price).

(2) If the old line has disappeared, the consumer must pay more. He may get an article better, no better, or worse than before. In most cases it will not be better because in many lines, particularly in clothing and housefurnishings, the better qualities are not available.

Trading-up thus logically breaks down into quality deterioration and price increase. Though trading-up is

(Continued on Next Page)

An Appeal to Every Union Member

Secretary C. J. Haggerty of the California State Federation of Labor during the past week issued a warning to the organized workers against the danger confronting them in the attempt being made to enact a "national service law," which law would enable the Government to conscript the service of all citizens within certain age limits. Calling upon union members—in their collective capacity and as individuals—to immediately communicate with their congressmen, and register emphatic protest against such legislation. Haggerty said:

"Because the drive of labor's enemies to enact

such a law is being pushed with greater vigor than ever before, there is serious danger that such a vicious measure will be enacted into a law of this country, unless we, in labor, immediately express ourselves in no uncertain terms to our congressmen by wire or by special delivery airmail letter requesting that they oppose, immediately and unconditionally, this unconstitutional measure.

"If we are not able to stop this bill, it will strike a deadly blow at the existence of our trade unions and undermine the basis of free labor in this country. This is no exaggeration."

Heed, and act upon, this warning today!

REPORT ON DEFICIENCIES IN BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS INDEX

(Continued from Page Five)

a complex of factors, it is a phenomenon clearly distinguishable in the trade from quality deterioration, a large proportion of which is independent of trading-up. It is important to distinguish the two because the nature of the B.L.S. Index is such that the price changes which occur because of forced shifts to higher price lines are not adequately reflected.

Of these three types of changes enumerated, the B.L.S. Index reflects only the first with any reasonable degree of accuracy. But the other situations are quantitatively very important. In the case of the Food Index we conclude that, because of these factors of quality deterioration, upgrading and disappearance of low-end items, there is an understatement amounting to 9 per cent during the war period. For clothing and housefurnishings the deficiency is even greater.

Factors Largely Unmeasured

A review of B.L.S. procedures shows why these important factors are largely unmeasured in the Cost of Living Index. With respect to quality deterioration, the specifications provided to field agents are ordinarily so broad that a very considerable quality change can occur without raising any problem regarding the identity of the article from one pricing period to another. But even when specifications are changed, the process by which the newly designated article is linked into the Index prevents full reflection of the price change in the price relative.

In discussing quality deterioration we wish to state emphatically that we are not complaining about quality reductions necessitated by wartime conservation programs. Nor are we complaining even about other types of quality deterioration for which there is no need and no justification. We are simply pointing out that quality deterioration has become an important factor in raising the cost of living.

Recent Common Phenomenon

Upgrading, or trading-up, is recognized as a common phenomenon during the past three years. The distinction among grades of eggs, for example, has largely disappeared in retail outlets, so that the buyer pays Grade A prices for inferior eggs as well as for what are actually Grade A eggs. In the case of clothing, where this phenomenon has been most conspicuous, women's dresses which in 1942 were in the \$4.75 price line had been moved up in 1943 into the \$5.50 line.

The failure of the B.L.S. to measure any substantial portion of the effects of upgrading (including, here, the disappearance of low-end items) arises from the absence of up-to-date information on changes in the direction of consumer expenditure and from the process by which new items are chained into the Index. Except in the relatively rare instances where a low price line has been completely discontinued and a new and higher line introduced, the Index reflects none or

only a portion of the increased cost to the consumer.

In the more common situation where a low price line has been completely discontinued but a higher price line is available which comes within the same specifications, the B.L.S. practice is to compute the price increase as the difference between the price of the higher line in the current period and the average of the prices of the two lines in the previous month. Thus, in this kind of case, only half the full price increase is reflected in the Index. The Bureau explains this procedure by saying: "This procedure is followed on the assumption that many members of the group to which the Index applies purchased the higher price line in the earlier period."

Low-Price Lines Unavailable

Still more common is the situation where a low price line becomes relatively unavailable, though still to be found in isolated places, on the market. Consider the case of a low price line of men's shirts which is being priced by the Bureau. Back in 1934-36 this line was the one most typically bought by workers. Now, however, because it is more profitable to produce higher priced goods, the cheaper line is disappearing. Thus an increasing proportion of buyers is forced to purchase the more expensive shirt. But, so long as the cheaper shirt can be found for pricing, the B.L.S. ordinarily continues it in its Index.

The Income Factor

It is necessary to clarify a common misunderstanding concerning upgrading. We are told that it reflects principally not a rise in the cost of living but a rise in incomes. The assumption is that because workers have a larger "take-home" they can buy better articles than they have customarily used. That is, they have risen to a higher standard of living.

Three considerations raise considerable doubt regarding the importance of this assumption in wartime. In the first place, those who emphasize it commonly overlook the phenomenon of quality depreciation which, as we show, is a very important factor. Workers are buying many items at higher prices, but typically they have to do so in order to get an article of the quality they need. This is true of clothing and housefurnishings. It is also true of housing—the shortage of low cost housing forces the workers to go into the higher rent brackets.

Diversion of Purchases

Secondly, because many consumer durable goods (autos, refrigerators and housefurnishings) are no longer available, workers, like other consumers, can afford to buy higher priced items among non-durable goods such as food and clothing. Without a current survey of the patterns of workers' expenditures, however, it is difficult to measure the extent to which income has been diverted from durable goods to clothing or other items. It is obvious, that until this factor is taken into account, it is not possible to conclude, because some workers may buy better clothing than formerly, they have risen to a new standard of living. Their expenditures have shifted significantly and their savings (mainly in U. S. bonds) have risen, but the effect upon their level of living is not clear.

Third, there are certain overall statistical data which suggest the improbability that the income factor

is of great importance. From 1940 to 1943, according to the Department of Commerce, consumer expenditures rose by 36.8 per cent, from \$65,700,000,000 to \$90,500,000,000. This increase is less than the rise in the cost of living, as shown in this report. In terms of real goods, consumer expenditures have declined since 1940. In the case of food, there are independent Department of Agriculture figures which show a decline in the quantity of civilian consumption of 3 per cent from 1940 to 1943. For clothing, there has been a decrease in quantity of some 10 per cent from 1941 to 1943, according to a Federal Reserve Board Index. And, so far as housing goes, it seems clear that on net balance workers have even poorer housing now than in the pre-war period. Thus from the standpoint of physical quantities of consumer goods it is obvious that increased incomes cannot account for a major portion of the observed phenomenon of upgrading.

"Voluntary trading-up," to use a current phrase, must be of very much less importance than forced trading-up. However, to the extent that voluntary trading-up is a real phenomenon, its influence should be excluded in an examination of changes in the cost of living. Whatever influence it may have upon our findings is more than counterbalanced by the effect of other factors which clearly increase the cost of living, but which we do not take into account. [Reference is made to another section of the report not here reproduced.]

What Is the Cost of Living?

The B.L.S. Index attempts to explain away the failure of its Cost of Living Index to take into account the factors mentioned in this section, by arguing that the Index simply measures changes in retail prices of identical or similar articles from time to time. The emphasis is put upon price changes of given items, weighted by expenditure figures in a pre-war base period.

The Special Committee of the American Statistical Association also adopts this limited conception of the cost of living in its review of the adequacy of the B.L.S. Index:

"As used in technical statistical parlance, the term 'cost of living' has applied only to the first of the factors which determine family expenditures, that is, to unit prices. The cost of living index has undertaken to measure only this one factor." (The other factors alluded to are: (1) forced alteration in the manner of living and (2) changed standards made possible by increased income.)

Bureau Makes Adjustments

We find, however, that in actual practice the Bureau makes adjustments both in the items priced and in the weights assigned to them. The Index was thoroughly revised in 1940 when detailed expenditure data from the 1934-1936 Survey of Consumer Purchases became available. The food component of the Index was changed in March 1943 to take account of a few of the wartime shifts in purchasing patterns. Some adjustments have been made to meet wartime changes by dropping items out of the Index, for example, automobiles, or by adding items, as rayon stockings.

Such changes as these cannot be explained on the basis of the attempt to measure changes in unit prices alone. Indeed the very use of a system of weights based on a survey of actual expenditures indicates that the Index measures not alone changes in unit prices, but changes in prices of items about which it is assumed that they are in some degree representative of workers' purchases. It would be manifestly

(Continued on Next Page)

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State Labor Eyes Moves Affecting Water Power

Roland Curran, secretary of the Central Valley Projects Association, was recently voted an additional \$250-a-month expense allowance by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, bringing that gentleman's receipts from Tulare and Kern counties for his Washington lobbying activities to a total of \$1000 a month. The Tulare supervisors had been informed that the Kern board had recently voted \$250 expense allowance to Mr. Curran, and, not to be outdone, followed suit.

Dates Back Two Years

The California State Federation of Labor points out that this whole matter reaches back to 1942 when the Federation brought an action in the superior court in Tulare county, in behalf of C. C. Fuller, against the Board of Supervisors in that county for having wrongly donated \$1000 to the Central Valley Projects Association, a corporation which does not represent, in the opinion of the Federation and many other citizens, the best interests of the complete development of the Central Valley Project.

State Official's View

The reason for this position was the testimony which Mr. Curran submitted before the sub-committee of the House appropriations committee on March 12, 1942. In discussing Curran's action at that time, Frank W. Clark, State Director of Public Works, said in a statement issued by him: "As a matter of fact, Curran's own statement [before the congressional sub-committee] proves he is not representing the many diversified interests which the project will serve."

Director Clark went on to say further: "The Association and Curran may be interested solely in securing a water supply, but there are other interests in the Central Valley which desire the cheap power generated by the project delivered directly to them so they will not have to pay the middleman profit of the power monopoly. They are farmers, who are paying more for pumping than their crops are worth, who would like the benefit of cheap power from the project."

Clark said many other equally pertinent things concerning the position taken by Curran and his organization, the Central Valley Projects Association, whose board of directors the State Federation of Labor asserts, lends itself to the strong suspicion that it is some sort of an organization controlled by the power interests. Because of a technicality, the board of directors managed at that time to make an adjustment to allow them to pay Mr. Curran expense money.

Power Interests' Campaign

The suit brought by the Federation was dismissed without prejudice. Apparently, however, the campaign to make the taxpayers defray the expenses of people who are not in complete sympathy with or interested in promoting cheap power is still going on. The conclusion is inescapable that private interests are determined to sabotage at every turn the public interests in power and other public utilities. The Federation declares that the Central Valley Projects situation is merely one of the ramifications of the vast, over-all plan to prevent the public from sharing in the benefits of public utilities. In this matter, the Federation is taking a keen interest, and its executive secretary, C. J. Haggerty, is going to analyze the entire problem with the Federation's legal staff to the end taking whatever action may be advisable to stop this practice.

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No. 66-A in New Meeting Place

Civil Service Building Maintenance Employees Union No. 66-A announces that hereafter its meetings will be held at 109 Golden Gate avenue. The union meets on the third Thursday of the month.

Real Named on Committee

Charles W. Real of the Brotherhood of Teamsters' local in Oakland, and a vice-president of the California State Federation of Labor, was this week honored by Governor Earl Warren in being appointed on a five-member citizens' advisory committee on redevelopment of trade and service establishments, which group will serve with the State Reconstruction and Employment Commission.

Feeding Plan for Moore Yards

Industrial feeding experts of the War Food Administration's Office of Distribution have submitted recommendations to the Moore Dry Dock Company for an expanded in-plant feeding program, embracing construction of nine new cafeterias to serve workers in the company's Oakland shipyards.

The recommendations were made after agency feeding specialists surveyed the yards recently at the joint request of labor, management and the War Production Board.

A forthcoming meeting of labor and managerial representatives at the Oakland shipyards is expected to decide whether present proposals will be adopted.

Labor Report on B.L.S.

(Continued from Page Six)

absurd to continue in the Index salt fish or girls' cotton bloomers (assuming they could be priced) if people no longer buy them.

This report prefers the practice of the Bureau, to its rationalizations of the obvious defects of the Index, an indicating the true nature of the cost-of-living concept. A cost of living index is meaningless, and its employment for administrative purposes dangerous and unjust, unless it does more than measure changes in unit prices. It must also take into account what the Statistical Association Committee refers to as forced alteration in the manner of living. This necessity of a broader concept has, in fact, been recognized by the Bureau itself.

Measurement of Changes

"The Bureau of Labor Statistics Index measures changes in the cost of commodities and services as those changes affect the purchasing power of the incomes of wage earners and clerical workers in large cities." (B.L.S. Bulletin No. 699, page 3, boldface supplied.) It is obviously impossible to measure such changes without taking into consideration forced changes in the manner of living.

However, despite the Bureau's recognition of this fact, actual adjustments in the composition of the Index have been woefully inadequate to meet wartime conditions. The change in the Food Index introduced in March 1943, though belated recognition of the inadequacy of the Index, added only seven new foods. Essentially, the Index is still on a pre-war basis.

George Johns to Serve on City Planning Commission

George W. Johns, well known and energetic official in the labor movement, was appointed by Mayor Lapham as a member of the City Planning Commission last Saturday.

The personnel of the commission is entirely new, the terms of two of the former members having expired, and the other three members tendered their resignations. In addition to Johns, the new appointees are Michel Weil, vice-president of The White House; Mrs. Charles Porter, an official of the San Francisco Housing and Planning Commission; Gardner A. Dailey, architect, and Herman N. Weinberger, attorney.

George Johns has been a member of the Retail Cigar and Liquor Clerks' Union from the inception of that organization, in 1937, and was one of its first delegates to the Labor Council. He has been a member of the Council's executive committee for the past five years and has taken a leading part in the work of that important body, on various occasions having been designated on sub-committees for conferences, and adjustments of disputes. Johns is chairman of the Council's War Chest committee, and in that capacity was made vice-chairman of the War Chest Establishment Division, wherein he exhibited his usual zeal in forwarding the recent drive for funds among labor groups. His very comprehensive report on the campaign was printed in our last week's issue. With his wife and two daughters, the children being five years and one year of age, he resides at 2239 Forty-sixth avenue.

Teamsters' Council Retains Officials

Attendance by a large number of delegates was reported from the meeting of the Joint Council of Teamsters held last Monday evening, at which time the election of officers was one of the principal items on the calendar.

Confidence in the service given by the incumbent officials was expressed when all were chosen by acclamation for the ensuing term. They are as follows: President, John P. McLaughlin; vice-president, Charles W. Real; secretary-treasurer, Fred Wettstein; recording secretary, Stephen F. Gilligan; trustees (three), Ernest Lotti, Al. Cameron and Sylvio Giannini.

UNIONS MULTIPLY IN CHINA

China has 2864 labor unions with a total membership of 1,027,000, the Chinese News Service reports on the basis of a statement made by a government spokesman. Factory workers belonging to unions number 300,000, not including salt workers and miners.

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Run o' the Hook

By FRED E. HOLDERBY
President of Typographical Union No. 21

There was a good turnout last Sunday for the regular meeting of the union, the fact that nomination of candidates for international office at the May general election coming up at this time being, perhaps, the incentive for the better-than-usual attendance. The report of the canvassing board showed No. 21's choice of candidates to be as follows: President, C. M. Baker; first vice-president, Clarence J. Desper; second vice-president, Thomas A. Holland; secretary-treasurer, William Ward; board of auditors, William C. Gallaway; trustees of Union Printers' Home, Henry E. Clemens, M. M. McKnight and James F. O'Malley Sr.; agent Union Printers' Home, Frank E. Connor; delegates to A.F.L., George Orla, Reese J. Highfield, Elmer J. Madden, William P. Moriarty and Edward P. Russell; delegate to Canadian Trades and Labor Congress, Harold B. Dempsey.

A resolution introduced at Sunday's meeting was given favorable consideration by the membership. This resolution, commending President Claude M. Baker of the International Typographical Union for his untiring efforts in assisting local unions in scale negotiations and expediting consideration of applications by the War Labor Board, reads in part as follows:

"RESOLVED, That San Francisco Typographical Union No. 21, in regular meeting assembled on Sunday, February 20, 1944, go on record as wholeheartedly indorsing the manner in which Claude M. Baker, president of the International Typographical Union, and a member of San Francisco Typographical Union, has handled the many cases before the War Labor Board and its agencies in which he has participated, and his splendid defense of the constitutional rights of the membership before the National War Labor Board at Washington, D. C."

The entire resolution will be printed in the *Typographical Journal*, as the officials were instructed to forward it to the editor of the *Journal* with a request that it appear in the columns of that publication.

The union voted another contribution to provide for sending union-label cigarettes to our men on the fighting front. This time the Pacific area will receive our contribution of smokes. Cards have been received acknowledging receipt of cigarettes sent by No. 21 to the African theater of operation.

W. B. ("Billy") Appel, retired member of No. 21, received word last week that his brother, Charles F. Appel, had passed away at Forrest City, Ark., on February 6, at the age of 85.

Notice arrived during the past week that the Chicago Newspaper Commission of the War Labor Board has approved the new agreement negotiated in December with the Newspaper Publishers' Association. This new contract, calling for an increase of three and a half cents an hour, is effective as of December 27, 1943. The approval by the Board affects the four major newspapers in San Francisco, applications of the five other dailies now on file with the Chicago board not as yet having been approved. Arrangements have been made whereby payment of the increase is to begin with the current week, and all retroactive pay will be included in wages received

on the first paydays in March. Approval of the commercial agreement, which provides 10 cents an hour increase on all shifts, retroactive to March 18, 1943, is expected to arrive at any time.

H. G. Knapp, who until leaving here last October had worked in the commercial branch, deposited a Salt Lake traveler last Monday, having arrived back in the city over last week-end.

Harry S. Wilson drew a traveler the early part of the week, saying he intended to locate "down the Peninsula" for a spell.

Chairman Alex Held of the Mackenzie & Harris chapel says both his sons have finally arrived in the South Seas. Since last June, Ernest Held, an apprentice member of the union, and photographer mate, second class, has been stationed on New Caledonia. The other son, Pfc. Edward Held, until a few weeks ago with the Air Corps at Mobile, Ala., has just V-mailed his dad announcing his safe arrival at his destination, "somewhere in the South Pacific."

Machinist First Class Victor Myers of the *Call-Bulletin* chapel arrived in the city on Wednesday of last week to spend a furlough with his wife and family. Vic came by plane from his station at Portsmouth, Va. He attended union meeting on Sunday and was given an ovation by the membership.

Headquarters received a card last Friday announcing a new arrival at the home of Mary and Stephen Rewak. David Lowell, a 7-pound 2 1/2-ounce boy, arrived at Mills Memorial hospital, San Mateo, on February 16. "Steve" is now with the Army Air Force and is stationed at Lincoln, Neb.

A V-mail letter from Pfc. Paul Coontz, former instructor in printing at Commerce High who is now stationed in North Africa, arrived last week-end. Paul is with a Coast Guard detachment. On his first leave of absence he visited the composing room of *Stars and Stripes* and contacted Jack Begon for a reunion. This was six months ago, and soon after that, he says, Jack was transferred to the front in Italy with a mobile unit of the Army publication.

Just at the close of time for submitting copy, Mrs. Fred Leach informed us that her husband was confined to his bed with a severe attack of influenza. Editor of the "Golf News" for this page, Fred was in no condition to furnish copy this week, and printer golf fans will have to wait until next week for a continuation of his interesting articles.

News Chapel Notes — By L. L. Heagney

Heard from last, Lou Montarnal was at Camp Reynolds, Pa., which contains, he wrote, the very flower of the American Army. To it are sent experts in military government, interpreters (all speak one or more continental tongues) and technicians, most of whom there receive final checkup before going overseas. He felt slightly uneasy in such company, Lou admitted, but soon was so busy he had scant time for self-analysis. Lou was transferred to the Army Service Forces, and his command of several languages appears to rate him a nice spot in the foreign service.

Globe-trotters Bill Leslie and Harvey Bell got into their traveling togs last week. Leslie took the skyliner to Calistoga Hot Springs. Harvey grabbed a bus to Vallejo, and no one, he complained, arose to offer him a seat and he stood up all the way there and back.

Home on furlough after a long sickness, Joe Jacobs tells us that despite many months in the Navy he has yet to do any training. Almost upon arrival at Farragut, Idaho, he became ill, so he expects they'll put him to work, once he gets back to camp.

Speaking of sickness, Lucille Davis caught a cold, later the flu, then recovered, had a relapse, and when last seen she especially requested visitors not to look too closely at a certain part of her face—that cheerily purple nose which looked like a lighthouse all lit up did sort-a attract attention.

Following that hail storm, Jimmy Serrano opened his umbrella the minute Frank Snow entered the composing room next morning—for protection, he claimed.

Income tax blanks are a bit confusing, Vince Porrazzo says. In 1942 and '43 clerks of the bureau filled

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3206-A Mission Street Near Valencia	1240 Fillmore Street Near Eddy
4476-A Mission Street Near Excelsior	1310 Stockton Street Near Broadway
5126 Third Street Near Bay View	557 Haight Street Near Steiner
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Union Officials Charge Abuse in Rail Manpower

Over 250 officers of the Maintenance of Way Employees, at a conference in Chicago launched a campaign to wipe out shocking conditions on the railways which, they charged, have aggravated manpower problems.

Among abuses bombarded by the union leaders were waste of labor resulting from seasonal unemployment; "farming out" of maintenance of way work at higher wages than are paid regular employees; importation of Mexicans and Puerto Ricans beyond needs of the railroads, and evil conditions perpetrated by railroad "commissary" companies.

The delegates also cited an alarming increase in train wrecks due to neglect of tracks and structures; employment of women and children in jobs for which they are not fitted; overtime discrimination practiced against waymen; excessively long hours; crowded and unsanitary camp outfits for track workers, and many other abuses.

President E. E. Milliman of the Waymen announced the organization prefers to seek correction of such conditions by collective bargaining, but will ask Congress for relief if that fails.

in his returns, and each year he later received notice to show up and correct them.

From start of the war Sid Tiers tried to don the uniform but the Army proved remarkably noncooperative, perhaps due to his age; Sid used to be younger, you know. His chance came when the Army Transport Service accepted him; he trained intensively and was given a second engineer rating. Since going to sea Sid has not been heard from, but his friends wish him the very best in his hazardous new occupation.

Fortune smiled on Chuck Adams the other night when friends called and gave him a bottle of vodka, a liquid he'd heard the Russians are fond of. Chuck asserts he's no Red, nevertheless is determined to down the stuff even if he must switch his political views.

Folks here think the town is crowded, but Herb Mather, down from Sacramento, said we haven't seen anything yet. The capital, Herb reports, bulges with newcomers; houses are so scarce he has not been able to get one since he left here to take a job in the State Printing Office a year ago.

"Dog Trouble," technicolor picture of Pacific Coast warplants, is scheduled for April release. Government priorities granted Chester Beers, adman, enabled him to secure not only supplies but admission to plants closed to the general public. Beers, who expects to complete the picture this week, is in Los Angeles to film plane factories. He worked a year, from Seattle to San Diego, covering angles that will aid learners or journeymen. Designed primarily for the deaf and dumb, still it should be of assistance to all war workers. Sound is not used; instead language and "eye-seeing" dog signs point or lead the way to each incident. Schools and educational organizations only will be permitted to see it.

In a letter from Jack Bengston, Seabees, stationed "somewhere in the Aleutians," we were granted a glimpse of the costumes worn by the boys up North. He inclosed pictures which certainly looked as though they'd keep 'em warm, also they looked like walking would be considerable of a chore. Inclosed, too, was a copy of their paper, a tabloid of six pages, covering sports, entertainment, "kidding" and what-have-you, dedicated to the Seabees, "Builders of the Northern Pacific." Rambling and gossipy, he signed his letter Jack Bengston, "Pride of Co. A, tsk-tsk."

Still nameless, the second edition of the chapel paper last week came off the proof press and started off to chapel members in the services. Editor Abbott and his writers performed a better job this time, perhaps because a second try resembles second thought —more mature. Whatever the reason, it made very good reading.

Commander Atherton of the American Legion wants a labor draft. Said nothing about drafting profits, however.

JAS. H. REILLY & CO.

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Official Undertaker of S. F. Typographical Union No. 21

Mailer Notes

By LEROY C. SMITH

As President Bennetts was announced as being confined at home by a sudden attack of severe cold, Vice-President Karby wielded the gavel at the February union meeting, last Sunday, in a very capable manner. Initial nominations were made as follows: Duncan C. Ross, for president; E. Karby, for vice-president, and Joseph P. Baily for re-election as secretary-treasurer. At the March union meeting, final nominations will be made for local officers and delegates for the ensuing year . . . Though received too late for the union to be listed as having acted on same, the Detroit proposition was unanimously indorsed.

After having deposited an honorable withdrawal, Elmer Neibauer drew a traveler and left for Boise, Idaho . . . Homer Claypool deposited a traveler from Los Angeles.

Nominations for officers of the I.T.U. to be elected in May, 1944, were made, the vote being: President—Baker 2, Miller 1, Randolph 17. First vice-president—Desper 2, Taylor 18. Second vice-president—Brown 14, Holland 1, Walton 2. Secretary-treasurer—Gill 17, Harris 1, Ward 1. Board of auditors—Gallaway 4, Gregory 15. Trustees of Home—Baker 17, Billingsly 17, Bloodworth 2, Cahill 2, Clemens 2, Hill 0, Lucas 18, McKnight 0, O'Malley 0. Agent of Home—Connor 2, Perkins 16. Delegates to A.F.L.—Austin 20, Clark 15, Garrison 18, George 2, Highfield 1, Kirkpatrick 16, Madden 1, Moriarty 2, Russell 2, Simons 16. Delegate to Trades and Labor Congress of Canada—Carmack 19, Dempsey 2.

Oakland Mailers' Union voted: Baker 20, Randolph 1. Los Angeles Mailers' Union voted 25, solid, indorsement of Baker. Doubtless, similar ratio in both unions for balance of the same group.

That it's a small world after all, was again demonstrated recently when LeRoy Keylich, *Chronicle* chapel, and a Navy machinist 3/c, who has been engaged in submarine duty in the South Pacific, met up with Sgt. Richard Viele, son of Harvey Viele, of the *People's World* chapel, during a recent short stay in Honolulu. Richard ("Dick") Viele, is stationed in one of the Pacific Islands. Needless to state, Mailers' Union No. 18 and the City by the Golden Gate came in for their share of mention during their short confab.

Leo Randall, *Chronicle* chapel, has received his military induction notice, and will report for duty March 3.

Word has been received that Gene Pritchard, Marine private, first class, of the *Chronicle* chapel, has been transferred from San Diego to an as yet unknown location.

Francis Deeler, *Rural Press* chapel, writes from Marine training camp in San Diego that he has lost four inches from his waistline, with no over-all weight loss.

Duncan C. Ross, *Chronicle* chapel, left last Monday to visit his parents in Hamilton, Canada. Margaret Ross, his wife, and son, left a week ago Thursday to attend the funeral of her father in Sarina, Canada.

GARRISON SUCCEEDS MORSE

Lloyd K. Garrison, executive director and general counsel of the War Labor Board, has been named by President Roosevelt as a public member of the board to succeed Wayne L. Morse, who resigned recently. Garrison was formerly a member of the faculty of the University of Wisconsin, and was chairman of the first National Labor Relations Board.

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TEST MOTOR CARS COMING HERE

In a nation-wide tour to test synthetic rubber tires, two demonstration cars of the American Automobile Association are scheduled to arrive in California next Thursday and will be in San Francisco the following Saturday and Sunday. With an itinerary covering forty-five states and traversing all kinds of roads, the two test cars will afford a complete demonstration of the new synthetic tires and synthetic recaps with which both are equipped.

Court Refuses to Enjoin Union

A big legal victory for the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union was scored at Kansas City when Judge Gunnar H. Nordbye of the Federal District Court denied the Donnelly Garment Company an injunction against President David Dubinsky of the union and a score of his associates. The Donnelly Company, a women's wear manufacturer, sought to enjoin Dubinsky and the union against "acts" of fraud or violence and against secondary boycotts aimed at customers. The injunction action was one phase of seven years of litigation stemming from the I.L.G.W.U.'s efforts to organize Donnelly workers.

Hospital Patients Improved

Their friends will be pleased to have favorable reports from two well known members of the labor movement and delegates to the Labor Council, who have been hospital patients.

It is stated that William P. McCabe, superintendent of the Labor Temple, will learn from his physician within a day or two that he has sufficiently recovered to be able to return to his home from Franklin hospital, and the exact date thereof.

And Edward Sullivan, delegate from Auto Painters, No. 1073, and a member of the board of directors of the LABOR CLARION, was permitted to leave the French hospital last week, where he has been confined for several months due to ill results from an infected toe. He is now residing in his apartment.

I.T.U. Indorsement Returns

Local unions of the International Typographical Union have been making indorsements at meetings held this month for international officials to be elected in May. Following are unofficial returns thus far reported from 418 of the more than 900 locals, the figures given being the number of unions which had indorsed the respective candidates:

President—Baker of San Francisco, 107; Miller of Dayton, 63; Randolph of Chicago, 184.

First Vice-President—Desper of Washington, D. C., 137; Taylor of Dallas, 262.

Second Vice-President—Brown of New York, 177; Holland of Detroit, 172; Walton of Spokane Falls, 39.

Secretary-Treasurer—Gill of Cleveland, 202; Harris of Detroit, 65; Ward of New York, 88.

The apparent discrepancy in the totals of the candidates and that of the total number of unions making indorsements is due to the fact that a candidate for president, first vice-president and secretary-treasurer must receive a majority vote of the local in order to obtain indorsement, and if such majority is not forthcoming no indorsement is recorded for that particular office. Indorsements also are being made for certain other offices and delegations but only meager returns have been reported theron.

Buy Union Label Merchandise from Union Clerks.

PEOPLE'S DAIRY
An Independent 100 Per Cent Union

Union Members Enlisted in S. F. Port Security Force

Responding to a patriotic urge to serve their country, a considerable number of members of local trade unions have joined the San Francisco regiment of the Coast Guard's Volunteer Port Security Force and are functioning after working hours in Coast Guard shore uniforms.

The regiment now has launched an intensive recruiting drive to meet the urgent need for men to serve on the midnight to 6 p. m. watches and union members in the ranks are hoping that many of their co-workers will join.

Commander Roy C. Ward, commanding officer of the regiment, states that men from 25 to 65 are needed immediately to serve two six-hour watches a week between midnight and 6 p. m. They will guard docks, ships and other port facilities, rendering a vital war service by relieving regular and younger Coast Guardsmen for badly needed combat duty at sea.

Employers are being urged to co-operate by allowing such employees as desire to serve on daytime watches. They are being told that even in a daytime watch not all of the six hours served will be taken out of the employer's time.

Officers of the Coast Guard recently attended a meeting of the San Francisco Labor Council and addressed the delegates, explaining the purpose of the organization and duties of the enlistees. They were given a cordial reception, and the delegates were urged to present the subject to their respective unions in an effort to aid the recruiting campaign.

WAGE INCREASE APPROVED

Approximately 500 platform workers, employed by trucking companies associated with the St. Louis Operators' Council, will receive a wage increase of 5 cents an hour, the National War Labor Board Trucking Commission announced in approving an application for the increase by the Association and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers. These workers are non-drivers employed by some 112 trucking companies operating in the St. Louis area.

A Copenhagen bookseller was recently given a jail sentence, it is reported from Stockholm. All he had done was to put a picture of Hitler and one of Mussolini in his shop window. He had, however, put a copy of "Les Miserables" in between.

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S. F. Labor Council

Secretary's Office and Headquarters:
Labor Temple, 2940 Sixteenth Street (Room 214)
Headquarters Phone MArket 6304

The Labor Council meets every Friday at 8 p. m., at the Labor Temple. The Executive and Arbitration Committee meets every Monday, at 8 p. m. The Organizing Committee meets every Friday, at 7:30 p. m. The Union Label Section meets the first Wednesday of every month, at 7:30 p. m.

Synopsis of Meeting Held Friday, February 18, 1944

Meeting called to order at 8:15 p. m. by President Shelley.

Roll Call of Officers—All present.

Approval of Minutes—Minutes of the previous meeting approved as printed in the *LABOR CLARION*.

Credentials—Steam Fitters No. 509—J. K. Field, Wholesale Liquor Drivers and Salesmen No. 109—Mel Weingarten, Norman Browner.

Report of the Organizing Committee—(Meeting held Friday, February 18.) Called to order at 7:30 p. m. The following were examined, and having been found to possess the proper number of union labels on wearing apparel and having shown proof of American citizenship, the committee recommended that they be seated as delegates to this Council: Bakery and Confectionery Workers No. 24—Jack O. Cierley, Elevator Operators No. 117—Rollyn J. Sur, Operating Engineers No. 64—James Fait, Ship Fitters No. 9—L. H. Keel, Tool and Die Makers No. 1176—A. Hartman, Web Pressmen No. 4—J. Kelly, J. Vernon Burke. It was recommended that the organizations be notified to instruct their newly appointed or elected delegates that a certificate of registration as a voter is necessary before they can be seated. A special meeting of the committee will be held March 3 for the purpose of organization. Committee mem-

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"We Don't Patronize" List

The concerns listed below are on the "We Don't Patronize" list of the San Francisco Labor Council. Members of labor unions and sympathizers are requested to note this list carefully *from week to week*:

Adam Hat Stores, Inc., 119 Kearny.
Advance Pattern Company, 552 Mission.
American Distributing Company.
Austin Studio, 833 Market.
Avenue Hotel, 419 Golden Gate.
Becker Distributing Company.
Bruener, John, Company.
B & G Sandwich Shops.
California Watch Case Company.
Chan Quong, photo engraver, 680 Clay.
Curtis Publishing Co. (Philadelphia), publishers of *Saturday Evening Post*, *Ladies' Home Journal*, *Country Gentleman*.

Doran Hotels (include St. Regis, 85 Fourth St.; Mint, 141 Fifth St.; Hale, 939 Mission St.; Land, 936 Mission St.; Hillsdale, 51 Sixth St.; Grand Central, 1412 Market St., and the Ford Apartments, 957 Mission St.)

Drake Cleaners and Dyers.
Forderer Cornice Works, 269 Potrero.
Gantner & Matern, 1453 Mission.
Gates Rubber Company, 2700 Sixteenth Street.
General Distillers, Ltd., 136 Front St.
Goldstone Bros., manufacturers of overalls and working men's clothing.
Lucerne Apartments, 766 Sutter.
M. R. C. Roller Bearing Company, 550 Polk.
National Beauty Salon, 207 Powell.
Navalet Seed Company, 423 Market.
O'Keefe-Merritt Stove Co., Products, Los Angeles.
Pacific Label Company, 1150 Folsom.
Purity Springs Water Company, 2050 Kearny.
Remington-Rand, Inc., 509 Market.

bers are asked to kindly make note of this date and be present promptly at 7 p. m.

Communications—Filed: Minutes of the San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council, dated February 3. From William Green, president, American Federation of Labor, and C. J. Haggerty, secretary, California State Federation of Labor, asking that we wire or write the members of Congress opposing the enactment of a National Service law. D. V. Nicholson, executive secretary, National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Inc., acknowledging receipt of our check for the "March of Dimes."

From C. J. Haggerty, secretary of the California State Federation of Labor, inclosing copy of a letter from William Green, president, American Federation of Labor, urging the support of the A.F.L. unions for the re-election of Representative Richard Welch of the Fifth District, California; motion, that a copy be sent to all affiliated unions; carried.

Bills were read, referred to the trustees, approved and ordered paid.

Donations: To San Francisco War Chest—Newspaper and Periodical Vendors and Distributors No. 468, \$735.95; Printing Specialties and Paper Converters No. 362, \$375 (which is the fourth payment on their pledge of \$4,500). "March of Dimes"—Laundry Drivers No. 256, \$25; Newspaper and Periodical Drivers No. 921, \$25. Waitresses No. 48, \$100.

Members of Committee (to work with the Council regarding pending legislation): From Bartenders No. 41—Roy Kenny (chairman), Bruno Mannori, Arthur Dougherty, William Walsh, Arthur Neergaard, Beauticians No. 12—Henry Calamaro, Margaret McFarland, Nellie Bonner, Beth Johnson, Grocery Clerks No. 648—C. H. Jinkerson (chairman), Richard Johnston, Louis Schmitt, Edward Hartje, James O'Connor, Office Employees No. 13188—Marie Shelley (chairman), Beatrice Parker, Gene Kaye, Minnette Fitzgerald, Herman Kleist, Edward McLaughlin.

Referred to the Executive Committee: Communication from Decca Treuhaft, secretary, Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee, inclosing a resolution and asking that the Council adopt same.

Resolution: A resolution asking that the Council favor enactment of an ordinance for San Francisco providing for enforcement of O.P.A. price and com-

modity controls was submitted by President Shelley and signed by the following delegates: Ann O'Leary, J. Kane, Mark O'Reilly, Arthur T. Hare, Frank Fitzgerald, Alfred C. Armstrong, Maurice Hartshorn, George W. Johns, Anthony Ballerini, Maurice Savin, John Blaiotta, Clarence J. Walsh, Stanley G. Isaacs. Moved to adopt: carried. (See resolution in full elsewhere in this paper.)

Reports of Unions—Production and Aeronautical Lodge No. 1327—Complained that the O.P.A. was cutting down mileage of representatives of unions by curtailing gasoline rationing. Miscellaneous Employees No. 110—Reported that they sold \$5000 worth of War Bonds; have set up a legislative committee to act with the Council. Steam Fitters No. 590—Reported that the transportation committee of the Metal Trade Council has increased the efficiency of their members employed in the shipyards; through the efforts of their organization, buildings are now being constructed in Vallejo, Benicia and Richmond for the shipyard workers to conform to building laws regarding safety; at Hunters Point 6000 people live in these Government-constructed units; the name is to be changed, however, to be known as the "San Francisco Naval Base." These construction units at Hunters Point will be under the supervision of the chief of the Fire Department of the City and County of San Francisco.

Mathew Tobriner, labor attorney, made a very good talk on the post-war picture. The trouble we have had with the War Labor Board has been that we have not had our cases properly prepared before we referred them to the Board. By this he meant the kind of organization, statistics, and the registration of facts.

Report of the Label Section—Delegate Rotell reported that on Wednesday, March 1, the Label Section invites all delegates to the party to be held in the Labor Temple.

New Business—The chair called to the attention of the Council that there was a vacancy on the organizing committee by reason of the resignation of Brother Ballerini, and the chair ruled that in order to avoid another election the delegate receiving the next highest number of votes be declared elected. An appeal was taken from the decision of the chair, and by a vote of the Council the chair was sustained and his ruling was upheld.

Receipts, \$1570.95; Disbursements, \$1761.41.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p. m.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN A. O'CONNELL, Secretary.

FOR DETECTING ENEMY RADIOS

Details of a new electronic weapon for detecting the use of radio transmitters by enemy agents have been revealed. The instant a spy attempts to transmit radio messages, a sharp cone-shaped line flashes on the surface of a fluorescent glass screen before the eyes of operators at monitoring stations of the Federal Communications Commission. The new method, known as fluorescent tuning, enables the F.C.C. monitor to observe simultaneously all radio transmitting efforts across a band of 100 meters. All stations—military, commercial, marine and radio-telegraph—appear on the fluorescent screen in the form of glowing peaks rising from valleys of radio silence. Other radio location finders enable F.C.C. investigators to determine the geographic location of any illegal transmitter and apprehend the agents who are using it. Panoramic receivers, which embody fluorescent tuning, are an ingenious adaption of the cathode ray oscilloscope.

ENGLISH BEER GLASSES DANGEROUS

Exploding glasses are bothering beer drinkers in Britain. Glasses, filled with beer, fall apart in the hands of "pub" customers. R. H. Poske, an expert on tumblers, explained that they were apparently defective. If new glasses are over-toughened, he said, "a strain is set up and they could explode if put on a warm table."

"No National Labor Policy...for Definite Guidance"

Following is the text of a radio address delivered by John P. Frey, president of the Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, on a recent "Labor for Victory" program presented over the facilities of the National Broadcasting Company. It is an analysis, and a "taking apart," of the nation's wartime labor policy. Read every word of it!

I am speaking to you this afternoon, not as a trade union official pleading the cause of labor or defending it, but as an American endeavoring to assist in adjusting one of our major wartime labor problems.

To win this war, unity of purpose and of spirit is essential. The home front must be as unyielding as the firing line. Labor is definitely included in the home forces making for a united front.

Dangerous Tendency

It has become urgently necessary that we examine this home front, for there is accumulating evidence that industrially we are drifting toward a dangerous division of viewpoint and purpose.

In the industrial field there are groups and individuals who, because of differing viewpoints, are now accusing each other of giving assistance to the enemy. In the heat of accusation men who should know better are attacking symptoms instead of sanely examining the facts and then dealing with the causes. The present moment is too serious a one for further preachings, recriminations, charges and counter-charges.

The time has come not only for labor, but for the American people, to give more careful consideration to causes which may operate in any way to weaken the war production effort.

Legislation No Remedy

It is worse than folly to look to legislation to improve this situation, for legislation and its administration never have and never will make men brave, patriotic, or self-sacrificing, or united.

What is gravely disturbing is that there are strikes, each of which reduces the necessary war production program and which may well, at a critical moment, prevent the armed forces from having the material required for victory.

Strikes and threats of strikes during wartime are indefensible. They are intolerable. And the American people have a right to demand that they shall not occur.

But there are also other conditions during wartime equally indefensible. One of these is profiteering; and another, equally indefensible and intolerable, is mismanagement of the labor situation by employers and representatives of federal agencies.

Labor Has Vital Interest

Organized labor, as represented through the American Federation of Labor, is as deeply interested in the winning of the war as any other group of Americans, for, among other things, the continuation of free institutions is at stake in the outcome, and without these trade unionism could not exist.

Yet there are strikes and threats of strikes. Why?

The problem is not as simple as some would lead you to believe. It is not a few labor leaders calling strikes or issuing threats for the fun of it. The problem arises through millions of workers—men and women—in the war industries whose justified complaints at times have received no prompt or adequate consideration.



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I would fail in my responsibility if I did not frankly tell you that the morale of our industrial workers has been injured—seriously injured—and that it is now vitally necessary that it should be restored. Abuse or arbitrary directives will not do it. Attempted punishment through legislation will not do it. Efforts to turn the members of our armed forces against the munition workers will not do it.

Some local strikes may have been caused by individuals having mixed ambitions, industrial and perhaps even political. But the great majority of strikes have resulted from an unnecessary irritation, an irritation which like a chafing harness has finally created an open sore.

Workmen who have given their solemn pledge not to strike during the duration of the war must be protected from any one in private management or governmental position who would take advantage of that no-strike pledge to see how far they can go in imposing upon them.

National Labor Policy Lacking

American labor has been forced to contend with an almost impossible administrative condition in our Government. There is in fact no national labor policy to which labor can look for definite guidance. Instead of a national labor policy, administered by one central authority, governing labor problems, there has developed more than twenty-five federal agencies which issue regulations and decisions affecting terms of employment and conditions of labor. In addition, there are a few personally advertised, self-appointed individuals who busy themselves advising government representatives and some labor leaders, with conflicting and harmful results. These agencies, through their regulations, directives and decisions, have established definitely conflicting policies.

Problems Accumulate

Those of us charged with labor responsibility frequently find it difficult to know which way to turn, or to whom to go. Problems which should be settled accumulate and become enmeshed in the multiplicity of government agencies and their conflicting policies and decisions.

There is no central agency to which we can go and arrive at definite final understandings. Such a central agency—a central clearing house—is industry's essential wartime need, and my purpose this afternoon is to urge that such an agency be created without further delay so that the morale of the American worker may be restored.

It is not my purpose to level criticism, to add to the accusations and counter-accusations now filling the press. Instead, the present most unsatisfactory condition requires constructive proposals. It is my purpose to present a constructive proposal.

Once Well-Established Agency

There was within our Government a well-established agency, a clearing house through which all questions affecting labor were considered and passed upon. That agency is the federal Department of Labor, created before the first World War through the urgent initiative of the American Federation of Labor. Labor sensed the necessity of a department of the Government covering the field of labor which would give the same service to labor and the nation as the farmer received through the Department of

Agriculture, and the business man through the Department of Commerce.

Unfortunately for the nation and the war effort, the Labor Department was not strengthened when war came. Instead it was shorn of many of its important bureaus, which were divided among other federal agencies created for wartime purposes. Lacking this central clearing house labor is now compelled to go from one agency to another, and not infrequently understandings and agreements reached with one federal agency are afterward thrown out of the window by another agency.

Our government-labor relationship is the very opposite of that existing in Great Britain where matters affecting labor must go through the clearing house of the Minister of Labor.

Two Recent Examples Cited

The almost fatal confusion and conflict between federal agencies affecting labor is illustrated by two fairly recent examples.

The Railway Brotherhoods and Railway Shopmen, in their efforts to secure a justified increase in wages, went to the well established federal agency—the Railway Mediation Board. For some three months they presented their case, and then received an award much less than they believed themselves entitled to, but which their leaders were willing to accept and recommend to their membership. After this award had been made, another federal agency ruled that it could not be put into effect. Here was an inexcusable conflict of authority—a conflict which greatly weakened labor's confidence in federal agencies.

If the award was justified it should not have been vetoed. There should have been within the Labor Department a clearing house which would have pointed out to the Mediation Board, before its decision was made public, that such a decision could not be approved, or with the power to inform another federal agency that it could not and must not veto the Mediation Board's award.

Not Isolated Cases

What happened in the railway situation has occurred in many other instances, even where collective bargaining between management, labor and the federal procurement agencies had resulted in an agreement.

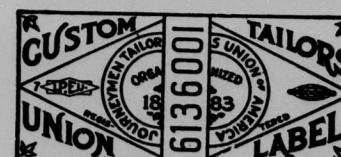
In May 1942 the organized shipyard workers, numbering over a million, responding to President Roosevelt's request, accepted a reduction of the wage rate which had been approved and granted by the Government itself a year before. Labor made this sacrifice to assist the President in his praiseworthy effort to prevent ruinous inflation. At that conference the Government pledged itself to a subsequent revision of wages if the cost of living was not stabilized. But the Government's pledge was not placed into effect.

Previous Authority Cancelled

What happened was that directives were issued which removed previous authority conferred by the Government upon the National Shipbuilding Stabilization Committee, composed of the representatives of government, management and labor in the shipbuilding industry, and conferred authority in the mat-

(Continued on Next Page)

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ELECTRIC VENTILATION SPEEDY SERVICE
OUR OWN BAKERY

Frey's Address on Lack Of National Labor Policy

(Continued from Page Eleven)

ter of wages upon another federal agency. That agency held that it was not bound by the Government's pledge to the shipyard workers in May 1942. Is it surprising, in view of this, that shipyard workers should look askance at other promises and pledges made by the Government?

Men cannot be assured of one thing one day and then publicly rapped over the knuckles the next. The confusion and the conflict of decisions between federal agencies has caused labor to lose much of its previous confidence in them. The morale of labor has been seriously injured. It can be restored. It should be—through the establishment of a central federal agency dealing with labor, handing down decisions which will stick and not be vetoed by any other federal agency.

Questions Answer Themselves

There are facts connected with the home front which profoundly influence its morale. Approximately a million and a quarter of those now in the armed forces are members of the American Federation of Labor. What of their family ties? Their fathers, mothers, wives, sisters and brothers in large numbers are employed in the war production industries. Are those production workers planning to create family enmities when their soldier boys return? Or are they eagerly looking forward to the day when the family can be reunited, with internal peace and affection? Are the members of the American Federation of Labor deliberately or selfishly applying a policy which will make other members in the armed forces turn against them with bitterness, when they return? These questions answer themselves—for American workers have not ceased to be Americans.

Pledge Given in Sincerity

The no-strike pledge was given by the American Federation of Labor in all sincerity. In the manufacturing industries members under temporary irritation violating this pledge, have been promptly instructed by their officers to return to work, and in practically every instance they have done so without delay.

Why have there been exceptions to the no-strike pledge? Even in England, where there is labor conscription, strikes have taken place. At home labor has at times been imposed upon by employers and by federal agencies because of labor's pledge not to lay down its tools. In numerous instances justified complaints, properly presented to federal agencies, have remained without action and decisions for many, many months. We are convinced that had there been a national labor policy consistently applied from the beginning the dissatisfaction which caused strikes would not have developed. Knowing labor as I do from an official contact of over forty-four years, I am convinced that there can be a material improvement in labor's morale, provided a central clearing house in labor matters is established in Washington—preferably in the Department of Labor, which was originally created for that very purpose. Threats of conscription of labor, threats of any kind by any one at this time, only tend to make a bad situation worse. What the nation now needs is efficient federal organization in the field of labor, instead of the disorganization which now exists.

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Warnings by union leaders that employment of inexperienced workers on railroads would lead to trouble is being recalled as railroad wrecks increase. Recently the Interstate Commerce Commission reported a fatal collision on the Chicago & Eastern Illinois because a 17-year-old telegraph operator neglected to deliver an order to one of the trains.

RATION TOKENS NEXT WEEK

Ration tokens, which will be given in exchange on and after next Sunday, February 27, to consumers on purchases of rationed foods, now are being distributed by local banks to retail grocers and butchers. Housewives will find the tokens, to be given as "change" for ration stamps, infinitely less bothersome and confusing than trying to make purchases "come out even" with food stamps of different denominations.

Urges Forming Permanent Labor-Community Groups

A four-point program designed to integrate and organize the patriotic and community activities of American Federation of Labor members is outlined in a message sent to all central labor bodies by Matthew Woll, a vice-president of the A.F.L., and president of the Labor League for Human Rights, relief arm of the Federation.

Experiences of the past two years, Woll points out, have shown that the League's intensive work on behalf of the Red Cross, the National War Fund campaigns and local community chests, has greatly improved labor-community relations.

For this reason, the League is now calling for the establishment of permanent local committees in all of the 850 cities where there are central labor bodies of the A.F.L. These standing committees of the League, Woll explains, should have these functions:

1. To aid Red Cross fund raising and Community War Chest drives.
2. To co-operate with the social agencies, and the Council of Social Agencies, in each community.
3. To encourage and organize the war-related activities of unions. Under this category would come participation in blood donor and other drives for the Red Cross, U.S.O. activities, campaign salvage drives, war bond programs, etc.
4. To arrange for lectures, meetings, plans for publicity, the distribution of literature, planning of visits to U.S.O. or other servicemen's centers, and other related activities.

"We are looking forward to a post-war world in which the importance of labor's contribution is recognized not merely on the economic front, but on a variety of fronts. To this end, the establishment of local committees of the League will be of great aid," Woll said.

Rolph Looks at Japs and Reciprocal Trade Pacts

The two items quoted below are from the weekly news letter, dated February 18, of Representative Thomas Rolph of the Fourth (San Francisco) district:

"A few months ago I was deluged with letters and communications urging me to vote for reciprocal trade agreements. My correspondents said we had to show our friendship for those in other lands. Furthermore, it was not time during a war to change these trade agreements. Good neighbor policy."

"One tangible result came to my desk this week. California breweries are facing intense competition from Mexico. Imported beer pays no internal revenue tax. Mexican breweries are springing up just across the border and are underselling California brands. In other words, our plants in San Francisco and other California cities are required to pay taxes not collectible from imported beer. How do you like this for a good neighbor policy? I also understand large supplies of Scotch whiskey are coming in. At the same time, American distilleries are prohibited from producing any bourbon or rye. Great life!"

* * *

"Congressmen from California, Oregon and Washington are constantly telling our colleagues that now that the Japs have been evacuated from our area, we want them to stay out permanently. But it is not easy. Congressmen from States where relocation camps have been established seem determined to send the Japanese back to us. We should have a national policy. On Wednesday of this week I spoke from the floor of the House urging that a committee be set up to study the Japanese problem on a coast-to-coast basis. Japanese philosophies and ours are as different as chalk and cheese. We tried to do everything in the world to get along with them. Pearl Harbor was the answer."

BOILERMAKERS ADMIT WOMEN

Admission of women to the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders and Helpers of America on the same basis as men was voted by the Brotherhood's recent convention in changing the constitution. Before the war women were barred. At the beginning of the war the executive board arranged for provisional membership of women, and now it is to be permanent. The convention elected Charles J. MacGowan president of the union to succeed J. A. Franklin, who was made president-emeritus. MacGowan was formerly vice-president of the international union.

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